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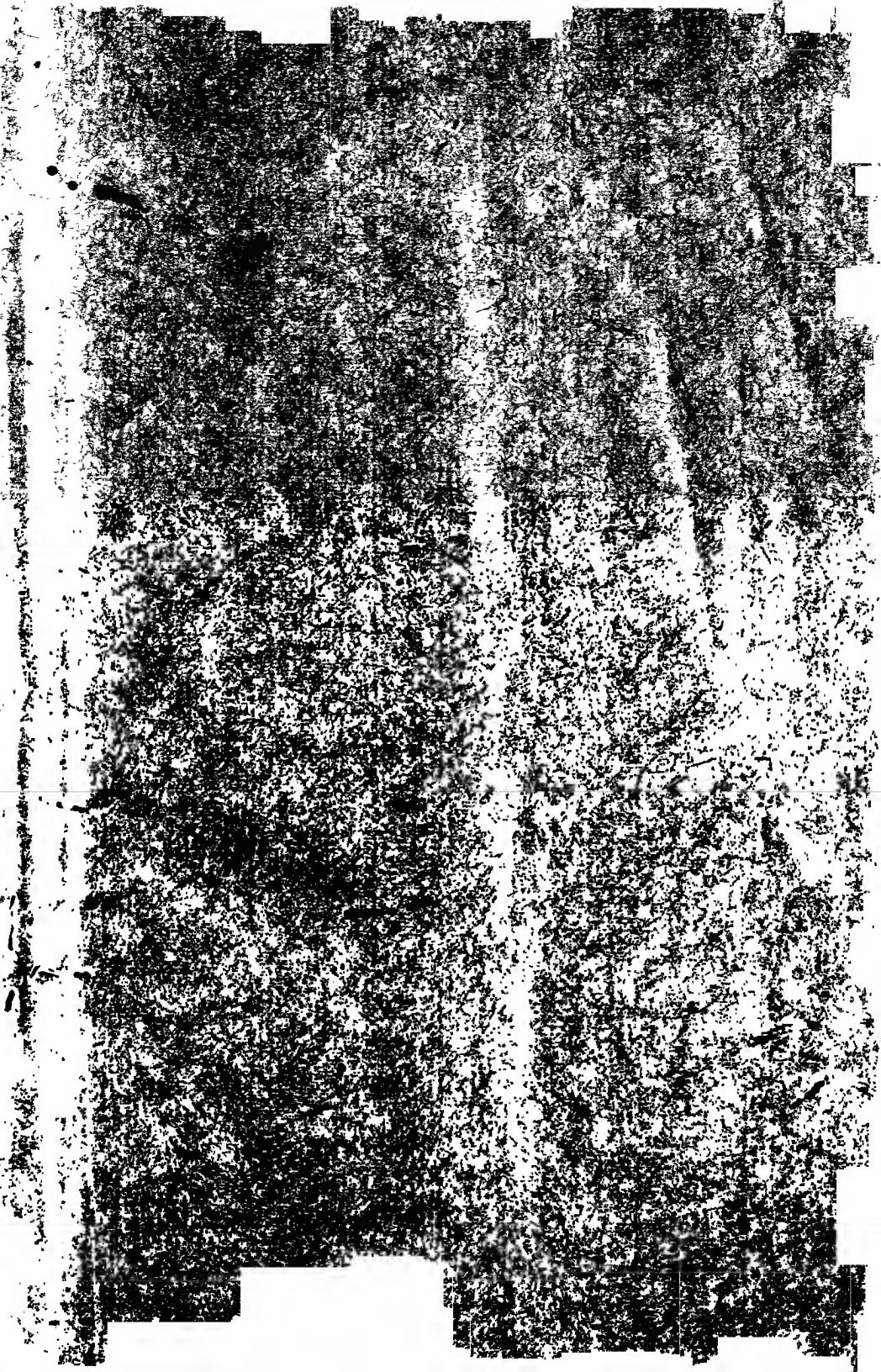
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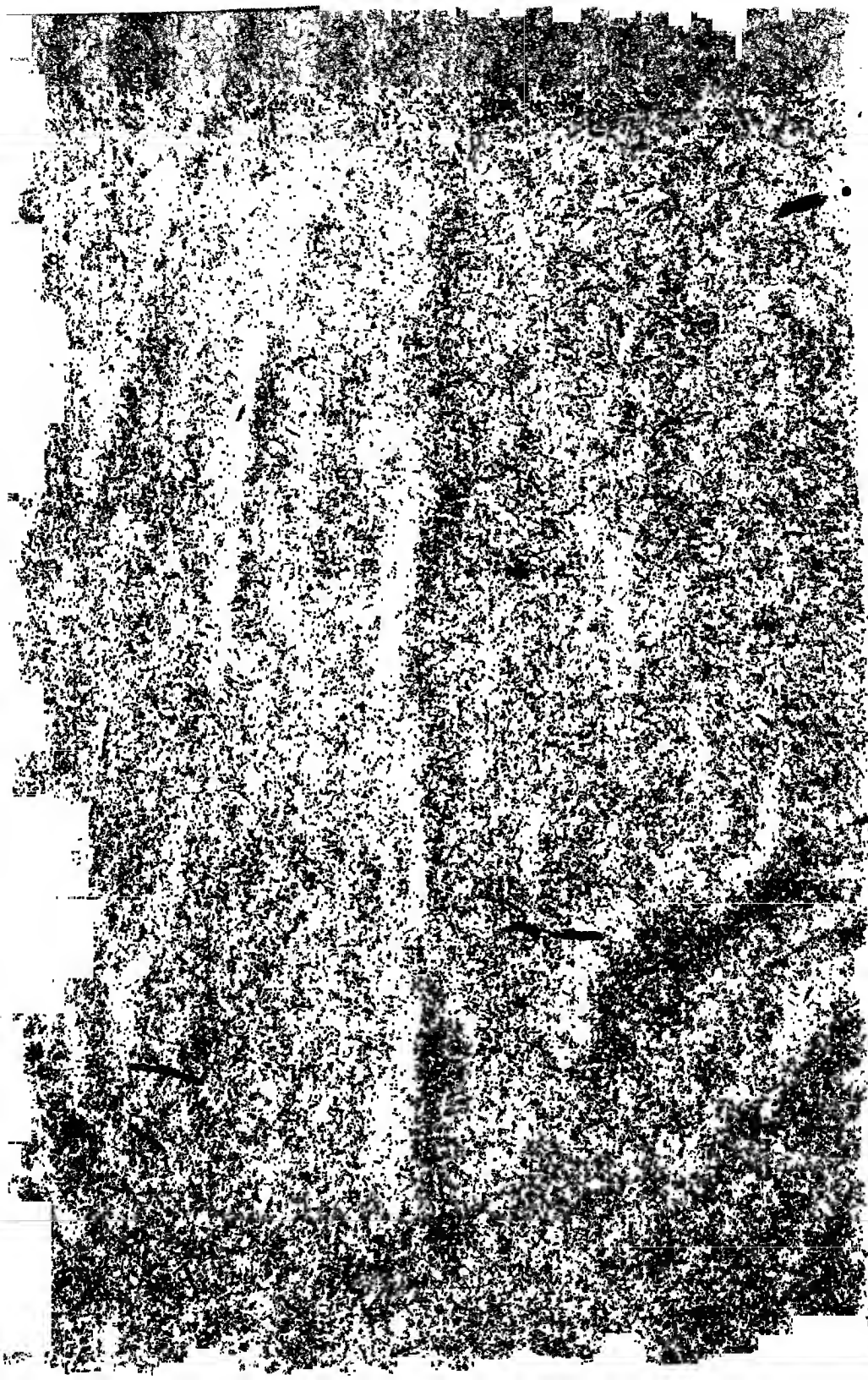
ACCESSION NO. 7171

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Watson Museum of Antiquities,  
- RAJKOT -

Report for the year  
**1936-37**

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From

J. M. Baxi Esquire,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Watson Museum of Antiquities, Rajkot.

To

The Hon'ble the President and Members of the  
Managing Committee of the Watson Museum  
of Antiquities, Rajkot.

*WATSON MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES.*

*Rajkot, 31st. March, 1937.*

**Subject:-** Annual Report on the working of the  
Watson Museum of Antiquities, Rajkot,  
for the year 1936-37.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report  
on the working of the Watson Museum of Antiquities, Rajkot,  
for the year 1936-37.

**Personnel.**

2. At a meeting of the Managing Committee held on 13-4-1936, I was re-elected Honorary Secretary and continued as such throughout the year under report.

3. At the same meeting, a sub-committee was appointed to select a suitable candidate for the post of the Curator. The sub-committee selected Mr. A. L. Swadia, B. A; and the selection was approved by the Hon'ble the President. On the recommendation of the sub-committee, he was deputed at the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay, to study Museum technique and organisation. After finishing his studies, Mr. Swadia returned to Rajkot and took over charge of the Museum from Mr. Chhotalal Kanji on the 1st January, 1937. The appointment made by the sub-committee of Mr. Swadia was confirmed by you as per Circular Letter dated the 1st June, 1936.

### Trustees.

4. Messrs Z. H. S. Bukhari and S. B. Parekh, State Vakils of Junagadh and Dhrangadhra respectively, continued as Trustees throughout the year under report.

### Funds.

5. The funds of the Museum at the close of the year amount to Rs. 72549-1-8. The major portion of this Viz. Rs. 69100/- is invested in Government Papers and the remaining amounts are deposited as under:-

Rs. 3406-7-6 In the Savings Bank Account of the Imperial Bank of India, Rajkot Branch. (Rs. 3066-7-6 Museum Balance and Rs. 340/- Balance of Coats-of-arms ).

Rs. 32-11-10 In the Savings Bank of Rajkot Post Office.

Rs. 9.14.4 Cash on hand.

Our invested capital realises interest just sufficient for running the Institution.

### Meetings.

6. There was one meeting of the Managing Committee held on 13-4-1936; and, on other occasions, business was transacted by means of Circulars dated 1-6-1936 and 4-3-1937 respectively.

### Income and expenditure.

7. The total income during the year under report amounted to Rs. 4945-9-5.

8. The total expenditure during the year under report amounted to Rs. 4808-10-0.

### Budget.

9. The Budget for the year 1937-38 shows the Estimated Income of Rs. 2660/- and the Estimated Expenditure of Rs. 3220-6-0. The budget is practically the repetition of the

last year's budget with minor changes in figures under different heads in recurring grants.

### Replenishing the Museum.

10. A sum of Rs. 484-15-0, the balance of Rs. 4,476-0-0 received from non-member States, was sanctioned for replenishing the Museum. Various useful additions and improvements have been made in the Museum during the year under report.

11. They are as follows:-

- (a) Purchase of twelve Nickle-plated articles of local make.
- (b) Purchase of three historical paintings of Kayamash, Chamundray and Chandbardai Barot of the time of the famous ruler Prithviraj,
- (c) Water-colour photo of the original zoological exhibit representing the fight between a serpent and a mon-goose. This original exhibit was sent to the Wembly Exhibition held in London in the year 1924. In order to preserve permanently the view of such a rare fight, its water-colour photo is prepared and exhibited.
- (d) One wooden key-board for the Curator's office has been prepared.
- (e) As the paper, on which the original sketch of the view of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught receiving the Kathiawar Chiefs at a Darbar in 1893, was drawn, had become too old and brittle to be preserved permanently, its facsimile has been prepared by the Head Master, School of Arts, Gondal. It is as good as the original which has also been preserved.
- (f) Repair and recolouring of the statue of a 'Roman Gladiator', and of the two statues of 'Venus'.
- (g) Repair and recolouring of an 'Italian View' which is covered with a glass frame in order to prevent dust etc. from spoiling it. Is is now placed on a wooden stand.



- (h) Five glass-cases have been prepared to preserve valuable exhibits in Arts, Archaeology and Natural History Sections.
- (i) Exhibits in the Arts and Geological Sections have been attractively rearranged.
- (j) Seven tables in the Arts section have been covered with cloth of bottle-green colour.
- (k) Twenty Ethnological models have been purchased and exhibited.
- (l) A new artistic wooden board-with engraved letters in gold-of the name of the Museum is prepared and is exhibited in a glass case in the front arch of the main entrance.

12. Besides, many minor exhibits have been repaired and arranged into proper order. Much more still requires to be done and will be carried out gradually from the Museum funds, as the Replenishing Grant received from non-members States is now spent.

13. Some of the important items which require to be attended to in our next programme are as under:-

- (a) Glass cases for preserving ~~Musical~~ Musical Instruments from exposure to changes of weather and from dust.
- (b) Glass cases for preserving the three stuffed crocodiles from being spoiled by dust and dirt.
- (c) Glass cases for the two classical statues of the Goddess "Venus".
- (d) A cloth cover for the statue of the 'Roman Gladiator'.
- (e) Cream-coloured curtains of cloth to be provided to preserve the exhibits from glare and sunshine entering through the windows.
- (f) To supply doors to the wall-cupboard in the Curator's office to preserve the records from dust.

- (g) To replace the old exhibits in the Natural History Section by artificial specimens of reptiles, fishes, mammals etc.
- (h) A small laboratory to be provided for the scientific care of art objects and the restoration of antiquities.
- (i) Plaster-cast models of valuable coins to be prepared and exhibited.
- (j) To replenish the Museum gradually with local industrial arts including textiles, glass, iron work, wood-carving, and all other objects of artistic workmanship which surround us in our daily life.
- (k) To utilize the space under desk show-cases and fit them with dust-proof panels that can be locked securely for the storage of duplicate exhibits, etc.
- (l) To rearrange exhibits in the Sections of Archaeology, Botany and Natural History.
- (m) To provide chemical extinguishers in the Museum as a precaution against fire and the Peons and Hamals will be instructed how and when to use them.
- (n) For the purpose of bringing together schools and the Museum, an interesting series of lectures to be organised for students as well as for the general public.
- (o) To publish cheap illustrated guide-books in the form of small pamphlets or booklets.

#### Report on General Survey of the Museums of India.

14. As stated in my last year's report, Mr. H. Hargreaves a member of the Museums Association, London, visited our Museum along with other Museums of India. In the report on the Museums of India issued by Messrs S. F. Markham and H. Hargreaves of which we have got a copy they suggest as under:-

"We suggest therefore, that the Government of India should create a special appointment of Inspector General of

Museums (for a period of at least three years) holding a position similar to that of the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, and acting in an advisory capacity. Such an appointment in the Department of Education would emphasise the Educational Aspect of Museums.

x                      x                      x                      x                      x

“It is believed that the Provincial Governments and the Indian States would be willing and anxious to avail themselves of his expert services, as in the case of the Director General of Archaeology. They can no longer keep their Museums in water-tight compartments and expect efficiency”.

15. In view of what is stated above, it is very likely that an Inspector General of Museums may be appointed and he may visit our Institution periodically. There is a great and urgent necessity for revising the register of exhibits in the Museum and for getting a new catalogue prepared and printed on modern lines. The present list is being maintained ever since the Museum was started; and since then, there have been numerous additions and alterations owing to the removal of old, useless and worn-out articles and replacing them by new ones. This is rather an intelligent piece of work requiring the guidance of one having good experience of the line. As we have now secured the services of a trained and permanent Curator, this work is being taken up soon, and it is hoped, in collaboration with Mr. Chhotalal and if necessary, with the help of an additional temporary hand, he will be able to show substantial progress in this important work by the time the next report is out.

#### **Coats-of-Arms of Kathiawar States.**

16. During the year under report, the Museum has the good fortune to obtain through the generosity of the States, the Coats-of-arms of all the Member States of Kathiawar—from Junagadh to Khirāsra. This unique collection has enriched the Museum considerably and has become a great attraction to visitors. Each blazon will bear its name—plate of brass with

letters engraved in gold and will be fixed under it for its identification. They will also be provided with charts showing their origin and historical significance. Our grateful thanks are due to all the States for this rare and valuable gift to the Institution. All these armorial bearings will be arranged in a separate block in an attractive style and will be exhibited in a prominent place and at a visible height in wooden cases fitted with glass. The artistic work of preparing the heraldic bearings of ruling families on plaster was done by Mr. Damodar A. Vyas the Head Master, School of Arts, Gondal. This historical collection is highly spoken of by appreciative public.

### **Numismatics.**

17. Coins presented to the Museum Coin Cabinet during the year under report are shown in Appendix A. We express our warmest thanks to the Institutions and the States that made these presents.

18. As mentioned in my last year's report, a fire-proof safe prepared by the local artist is purchased for preserving coins and it is spacious enough to accommodate our coin collection. Plaster cast facsimiles of coins will be prepared and exhibited in the old show-cases in order to satisfy ordinary visitors. The scholars and students interested in coins, however, will have free excess to the original coins.

### **Library.**

19. During the year under report Rs. 124-7-0 were spent on books and periodicals and several books and publications have been received as presents also-App. B. & C. We tender our cordial thanks to the persons and institutions who kindly presented them.

20. The Library which was in the Museum Hall has now been shifted to the adjoining room on the East. This room will be utilized as the Museum Library and Reading Room. The work of preparing a consolidated and classified catalogue of books will also be undertaken during the course of the next year.

### Auditing of Accounts.

21. The auditing of the Museum accounts for the year under report was done by Messrs Manilal K. Mehta and B. R. Shah, State Vakils of Jafrabad and Sayla respectively. The accounts were found correct as will be seen from their report hereto annexed. Thanks are due to them for the trouble they took in auditing the accounts.

### Visitors.

22. The Museum was open for 344 days and was visited by 91, 946 persons as against 85, 855 in the last year and 70, 895 in the year before last. Thus there is a substantial increase of about 21,000 visitors during the course of two years only. These figures show that this cultural Institution of Kathiawar has become a centre of attraction not only to the people of Kathiawar but also to tourists and pilgrims from different parts of India visiting Rajkot enroute to the holy and historical places like Dwarka, Junagadh, Palitana and Prabhaspatan.

The average number of visitors per day comes to about 268 persons. Since February last, the system of counting male and female persons separately has been introduced.

The figures are as under :-

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Number of males</i>	<i>Number of females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
February	5768	3488	9256
March	7960	4115	12075

The maximum number of visitors recorded was 12075 in the month of March 1957; while the minimum number recorded was 4415 in January 1957. The main reasons for this abnormal increase of visitors in the month of March are (1) improvements in general and (2) marriage season among the Hindus and the Khoja community.

### Distinguished Visitors.

23. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb of Bhavnagar was pleased to visit the Museum on 7-12-56; he saw various

exhibits and was pleased to make inquiries about the working of the Museum etc. He showed great interest and went round to see the exhibits of the Ghumli collection in the compound. The Thakore Saheb of Sayla, the Yuvraj of Virpur and the Thakore Saheb of Khirasra also visited the Museum during the year under report and they appreciated the decent arrangement of the Museum. Their remarks along with the remarks by some intelligent visitors have been attached hereto. App. D.

### General.

24. We are indebted to the Mangrol Darbar for presenting to this Museum one Dagger and one Pistol fixed with a tiny bayonet which were found while digging the foundation of the historical fort of SEPPA—a village near Mangrol and to Mr. P. M. Dave of Rajkot for sending us as presents four Egyptian Manuscripts written on animal skin, fourteen foreign coins, one album of forty artistic views of Luxor, Karnak and Thebes in Egypt and a lot of picture cards.

25. In other Museums in India and abroad, it is generally a practice that the nobility and gentry offer their collections to Museums on loan for being exhibited to the Public. Numerous exhibits are received as presents also. In the same way, if the member States kindly give their own collections on loan or as presents to this Museum, the curios which may be duplicates or superfluous, will be a very valuable addition to our Museum and thousands of visitors will have a chance to see such rare exhibits.

26. My grateful thanks are due to our worthy President the Hon'ble the Resident for the States of Western India for the great personal interest he has always taken in the advancement of this Institution. I express my sincere thanks to my two colleagues on the Replenishing Committee—Messrs. Z.H.S. Bukhari and S.B. Parekh, for their whole-hearted co-operation in the work of reorganisation. I also thank all the members of the Managing Committee for their kind support and confidence in whatever I have been doing for the general improvement of the Institution.

27. I cannot close this report without recording my appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Chhotalal Kanji when he was Pro-Tem Curator. He discharged his duties with zeal which has been the main cause of the present improved condition of our Museum. In Mr. Swadia I am happy to say that we have secured a Curator who has got an insight and a desire to make our Museum a really instructive and attractive Institution in Kathiawar. The knowledge he has acquired in the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, will be of material help in the work of reorganisation. The Subordinate Staff has also behaved well.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd. *J. M. Baxi.*

Honorary Secretary

Watson Museum of Antiquities, Rajkot,

## Appendix A.

List of coins acquired for the Coin Cabinet of the Museum  
upto 31st March, 1937.

No.	Metal	Ruler etc.	Year.
-----	-------	------------	-------

(I) Coins presented by the Director of Industries,  
C.P. Nagpur.

1.	Gold.	Deva Raya. II	1422-47 A. D.
2.	Do.	Krishna Deva Raya	1509-30 A. D.
3.	Do	Achyut Raya ?	1530-42 A. D.

(II) Coins presented by the B. B. R. A. Society, Bombay.

4.	Silver	Aurangzeb Mint Tattah	1098
5.	Do	Do Do Do	1099
6.	Do	Do Do Do	4-x-1108
7.	Do	Do Do Do	4-x-1109
8.	Do	Do Do Do	42-1110

(III) Coins presented by the Junagadh Darbar.

9.	Silver.	M. K. Rudrasena II son of Virdaman 186 Saka Era (267 A. D.)	
10.	Do	M. K. Rudrasena II son of Viradaman.	187
11.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	27 (0) S. E.
12.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	2 (8) 5 ?
13.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	28-5 ?
14.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	287 S. E. 365 A. D.
15.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	28 (9 ?) S. E.
16.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	28 (9) S. E. 367 A.D.
17.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III	289 S. E. 367 A.D.
18.	Do	M. K. Bhartridaman son of Rudrasena II.	290 S. E. 287 A. D.
19.	Do	Kshatrapa Rudrasena III son of Rudradaman II	
20.	Do	Swami Rudrasena III.	
21.	Do	Rudrasena III 28 x	
22.	Do	Yasodamana II son of Rudrasimha II.	



No.	Metal	Ruler etc.	Year.
23.	Do	Visvasena son of Bhartridaman.	
24.	Do	Doubtful. To be read.	
25.	Do	Rudrasena III.	
26.	Do	Rudrasena III son of Rudradaman II 29 x	
27.	Silver.	Rudrasimha II son of Swami Jivadaman.	

( IV ) Coins presented by Mr. P. M. Dave of Rajkot.

28. 41. Foreign Coins ( 14 ).

( V ) Coins presented by the Rajkot Darbar.

42-45. Siam Coins ( 1 silver, 1 copper punch-marked  
and two of nickle-punch marked ).

46-47. Two Siam Currency Notes of 1934.

Coins presented by Mansukhlal Mohanlal of Rajkot

48-53. Foreign coins ( Six, 2 nickle-punch-marked,  
5 copper-one of this is punch-marked-and  
1 of brass )

## Appendix. B.

### List of books - Presented to the Museum Library during 1936-37.

1. Off print of an article on the Viridi Copperplate of sam. 297. The first known grant of Kharagraha I by A. S. Gadre.
2. Do Do Do.
3. Annual Report of the Varendra Research Society for 1934-35.
4. Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India No. 51. Animal Remains from Harappa by B. Prashad.
5. Records of the Indian Museum Vol. XXXVII, part II.
6. Do Do Do „ part III.
7. Do Do Do „ part IV.
8. Do Do Do Index Vol. XXXVI. 1934.
9. Do Do Do „ Vol. XXXVII. 1935.
10. Do Do Do Vol. XXXVIII, part i.
11. Memoirs of the Indian Museum Vol. XI No. 3.
12. Report of the Zoological Survey of India for the years 1932 to 1935.
13. Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology for the year 1934, Vol. IX. Kern Institute, Leyden.
14. Catalogue of the Coins in the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay. The Sultans of Gujarati Compiled by C. R. Singhal. Edited by G. V. Acharya.
15. Annual Report of the Department of Horticulture, Mysore State, for the year 1934-35.
16. Annual Report on the working of the Rajputana Museum, Ajmer, for the year ending 31st March, 1936.

17. Annual Report on the working of the Archaeological Department, Trivandrum, for the year 1110 M. E. (1934-35 A. D. )
18. Annual Report on South Indian Epigraphy for the year ending 31st March 1933.
19. 25th Annual Report on the working of the Amir-ud-daula Government Public Library, Lucknow, for the year ending March, 1935.
20. 24th Annual Report on the working of the Amir-ud-daula Government Public Library, Lucknow, for the year ending March, 1936.
21. Gaekwad's Archaeological Series No. 1. Indian Pictorial Art as Developed in Book Illustrations by Hirananda Sastri.
22. Annual Report on the working of the United Provinces Provincial Museum, Lucknow, for the year ending 31st March 1936.
23. Annual Report of the Victoria and Albert Museum, for the year ending 1935-36.
24. Proceedings and Transactions of the Seventh All India Oriental Conference; Baroda, December, 1933.
25. Annual Report Government Museum and Connemara Public Library, for the year 1935-36.
26. Gaekwad's Archaeological Series No. 2. The Asokan Rock at Girnar, by Hirananda Sastri.
27. Some Archaeological Finds in the Idar State by P. A. Inamdar.
28. Annual Report on the working of the Curzon Museum of Archaeology Muttra, for the year ending 31st March, 1936.
29. Annual Report of the Managing Committee of the Patna Museum, for the year ending 31st March, 1935.
30. Four Manuscripts written on animal skin.

31. Album of Artistic Views of Karnak, Luxor and Thebes.
32. Report on the Administration of the Archaeological Department and the Sumer Public Library Government of Jodhpur, for the year ending 30th September, 1936 ( Vol. X ).
33. Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India, for years 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34 in one book. Part I containing Sections I to III.
34. Do Do Part II. Containing Sections IV-IX, Appendices, Index and Plates.
- 35-37. Records of the Indian Museum Vol XXXVIII, parts, 2, 3 and 4.
38. Memoirs of Indian Museum Vol. XI, No. 4.
39. Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India No. 49 Bijapur Inscriptions.
40. The Museums of India by S. F. Markham and H. Hargreaves.
41. Annual Report of the Director of Archaeology Baroda State for 1934-35.

## Appendix C.

### List of books and periodicals purchased for the Museum Library during 1936-37

1. Nagri Pracharini Patrika, Vol. 16th, part 4th
2. The Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society Vol. XXII, part I.
3. Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Vol. XVII 1935-36, part II.
4. Journal of the University of Bombay, Vol. IV, part 4.
5. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Numismatic Society of India, 1935.
6. Journal of Indian History, Vol. XV, part 1.
7. The Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society, Vol. XXII, part, II.
8. Do Index, Vol XXI.
9. Annual Report of the B.B.R.A. Society for 1934.
10. " " " " 1935.
11. Journal of the B.B.R.A. Society, Vol. 12th. 1936, Nos. 1 & 2.
12. Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Vol. XVII, part, III, 1935-1936.
13. Report of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, for 1935-36.
14. Journal of Indian History, Vol. XV, part, 2; & Index of Vol. XIV. 1935.
15. Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Vol. XVII, part IV, 1935-36.
16. Do Do Index Vol. XVII, 1935-36.

17. The Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Institute, Vol. XXII, part III.
18. Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Vol. XVIII, part i.
19. Journal of the University of Bombay, Vol. V, part 1.
20. Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXI, part VII.
21. Do Do Do XXII, part II.
22. Do Do Do „ „ III,
23. Do Do Do „ „ IV.
- 24-26. Nagari Pracharini Patrika, Vol. 17th Nos. 1, 2, and 3.
27. Journal of the University of Bombay, Vol. V, Part IV.
28. Art and Society by Herbert Read.
29. Early Man. His Origin, Development and Culture by G. Elliot Smith etc.
30. The Story of Mankind by Hendrik Van Loon.
31. Natural History Ed. by Charles Tate Regan.
32. Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology for the year 1926. Kern Institute, Leyden.
33. કાઠીઆવાડનો નકશો.
34. રાંગોળીનું પુસ્તક.
35. ચિત્રમય અર્ધ.
36. નામાંકિત ચિત્રો.
37. Delhi in Pictures.

## Appendix D.

### Remarks of Distinguished Visitors during the year 1936-37.

- (1) I am desired to say that His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar visited the Museum on the 7th December 1936 and was greatly interested in the same.  
Rajkot, Dated 22nd Dec. 1936.

*Sd/ A. P. Pattani,*  
Hazur Secretary, Bhavnager.



- (2) I had the occasion to visit the Museum on the 22nd December, 1936. and was much pleased with the arrangement and decency.

*Sd/ Sursihji,*  
Thakor Saheb, Khirasara,



- (3) Visited Watson Museum today. I was very glad to find everything in order.  
Rajkot, D/ 3-2-37,

*Sd/ Dilipsinhji,*  
Yuvraj, Virpur State.



- (4) Visited the Museum today in company with Mr. A. L. Swadia the Curator after many years. Suggestions of experts on the subject of arrangement of various exhibits on scientific lines are being carried out and the Museum promises to be on systematic and Art Line. Its very appearance shows the nature of overhauling and promises success.

9-2-37

*Sd/ C. M. Manekad,*  
Retired Deputy Political Agent.

(5) I visited the Museum today in connection with the scheme of placing the coat-of-arms of the State and went round with Mr. Swadia who appears to have put his whole heart into the Institution and, I am sure, will succeed in placing the Museum on the most modern basis. His difficulties regarding funds will, certainly, I hope, be met by the States.

10-3-37.

*Sd/ D. M. Buch.*

Political Secretary, Limbdi.



(6) Visited this institution casually to day and I have been much delighted to see the progress of this. Wishing every success in the future with high prospects.

*Sd/Madarsinhji,*

Thakore Saheb, Sayla.



# Appendix E.

## Statement of Income and Expenditure of the Receipts.

No	Heads.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
I	<p>Opening Balance</p> <p>G. P. notes</p> <p>Imperial Bank S.B. Account</p> <p>P.O.S. Bank</p> <p>Cash on hand</p>	<p>69100</p> <p>3260</p> <p>31</p> <p>19</p>	<p>0</p> <p>11</p> <p>15</p> <p>7</p>	<p>0</p> <p>6</p> <p>5</p> <p>4</p>
	Total	72412	2	3
II	<p>Income during the year</p> <p>(1) Interest</p> <p>(2) Miscellaneous</p> <p>Total</p> <p>Amount of Coats-of-arms</p>	<p>2727</p> <p>3</p> <p>2730</p> <p>2215</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1</p> <p>9</p> <p>0</p>	<p>5</p> <p>0</p> <p>5</p> <p>0</p>
	Grand Total	77357	11	8

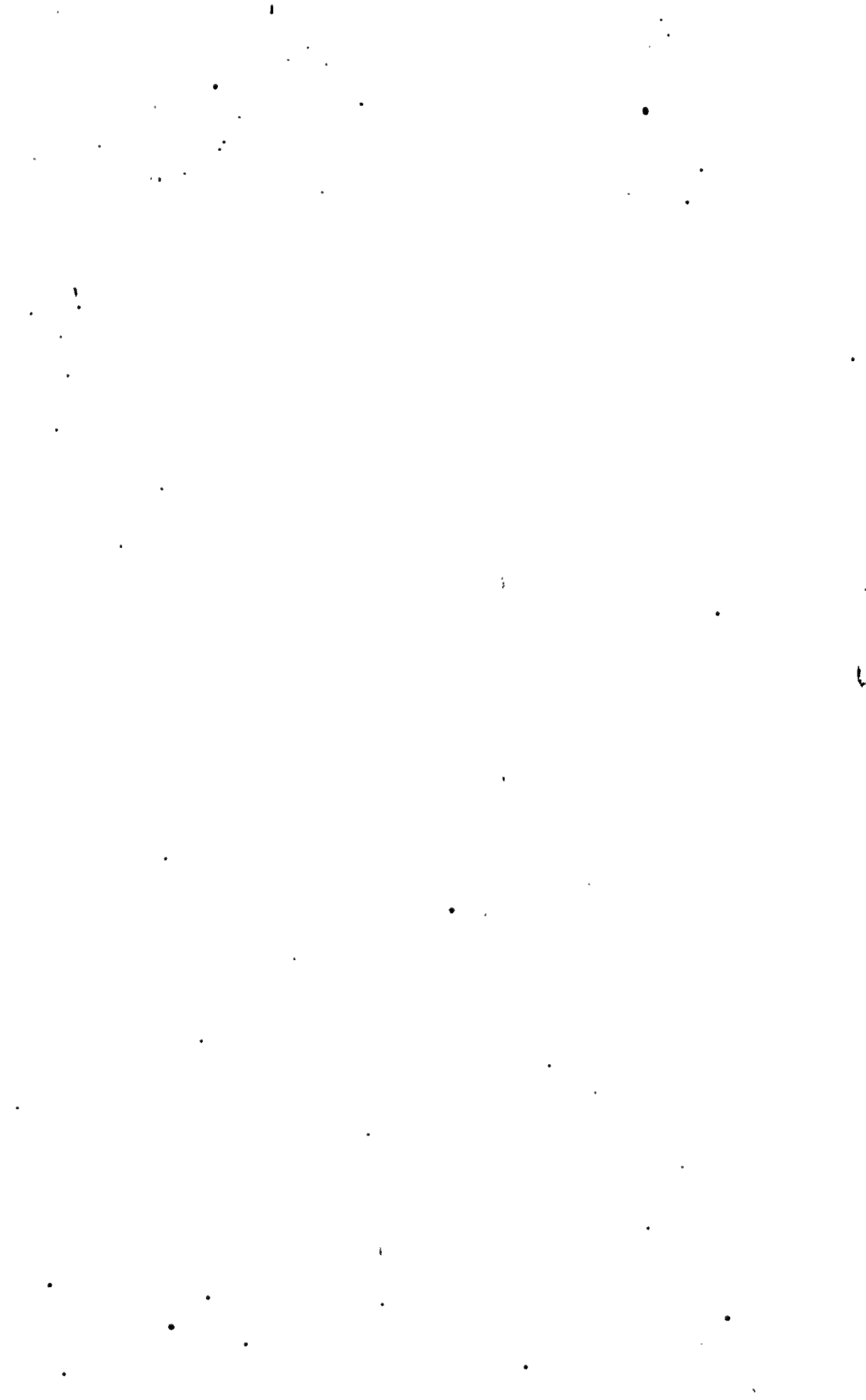
Watson Museum of Antiquities, Rajkot, for 1936-37.  
Expenditure.

No.	Heads.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1	<b>Recurring</b>			
	1 Establishment	1765	1	0
	2 Travelling	61	15	0
	3 Printing	51	2	0
	4 Books & Periodicals	124	7	0
	5 Coins	—	0	0
	6 Miscellaneous	59	2	6
	7 Dead Stock	44	8	0
	8 Contingent	24	15	0
	9 Postage	17	8	6
			0	0
	Total	2148	11	0
2	Replenishing the Museum	485	15	0
3	Purchase of Safe	300	0	0
4	Cost of Coat of arms	1875	0	0
	Total of items 1,2,3 & 4.	4808	10	0
	<b>Closing Balance</b>			
	G. P. notes	69100	0	0
	Imperial Bank S.B. Account	* 5406	7	6
	P.O.S. Bank	32	11	10
	Cash on hand	9	14	4
	Total	72549	1	8
	Grand Total	77357	11	8
	* This includes balance of Rs. 340/- of coats-of-arms.			

Sd/ A.L. Swadia.

CURATOR,

W. M. of Antiquities, Rajkot.



## Curator's Report for the year 1936-37

I was appointed as Curator of the Museum on 25th June 1936. With the approval of the Managing Committee, the Hon. Secretary deputed me to the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay, to study the Museum Technique and working of all its Sections.

### Study at the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay.

2. I left Rajkot for Bombay on 28th June 1936 and commenced my study at the Museum from 1st July 1936. The duration of my study covered a period of about six months. From July to October, I worked in the Archaeological Section with Mr. G. V. Acharya, B.A., M.R.A.S., the Curator and with Mr. R. G. Gyani, M.A., the Assistant Curator. I take this opportunity of expressing my deep sense of gratitude to the Curator, the Assistant Curator and other members of the office staff of this Section for giving me thorough insight into various principles and problems of Epigraphy, Iconography, Numismatics and cleaning and arrangement of Archaeological collections.

**Archaeological section** :-including the collections of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society and of the Director General, Archaeological Survey India. They are as follows:-

Brahmanical sculptures; Non-Indian antiquities from Egypt, Assyria, Persia, Samara and Arabia; Buddhistic sculptures & images; Jain sculptures & icons; enamelled tiles & pottery of the mediaeval period; palaeographic charts; Indian & Foreign coins; inscribed slabs and manuscripts; prehistoric antiquities from Mohenjodaro, Kathiawar & South India etc. etc. .

3 . In November I took up the Arts Section and the Asstt. Curator Mr. E. D., Lima was good enough to help me in studying the various Art Collections. I am also grateful to

Capt. W. E. G. Solomon the Curator and his Assistant for giving me all facilities in studying Indian and Foreign Arts.

**Art Section** :-including Sir Ratan Tata, Sir Dorab Tata and the School of Arts collections. They are as under:-

Marble sculptures; musical instruments; oriental fabrics; pottery, bronzes, brassware, Chinese & Japanese porcelain; enamels; ivory & sandalwood carvings; European & Indian pictures & paintings; Ajanta frescoes; Mughal, Persian & Rajput pictures; Kashmir shawls; Persian carpets; relics of Maratha Kings; jade, crystal; venetian & Cameo glass; lacquer work; Indian armour; statuary etc. etc..

4. I cannot help acknowledging warmly the kind help I have received from Mr. S. H. Prater C.M.Z.S., M.L.C. Curator Natural History Section in showing me the rearrangement in the Mammal, Fish and Reptile, Bird and Invertibrate Galleries. I am specially indebted to the well-known artist Mr. Vandrekhar for furnishing me with detailed information regarding different groups in the Section.

**Natural History Section** :-including the fauna and flora of the Oriental Region :-birds, mammals, reptiles, marine fishes of the West Coast; invertibrates; Lepidoptera and Molluscs. I had also the rare chance of observing the new arrangement of galleries and showcases with suitable and attractive colour schemes. The most interesting and unique collection was that of illuminated habitat groups with picturesque backgrounds illustrating the various phases of animal life and of Indian scenery. I also studied the new method of printing labels on celdaphane backed with glass.

The small Anthropological and Geological collections were also interesting.

5. As desired by the Watson Museum authorities, I had to visit the museums at Baroda, Jaipur and Calcutta in December. But in the last week of November, the P. W. Museum acquired its share of prehistoric antiquities from Mohenjo Daro. Mr. Acharya, therefore, advised me to stay at Bombay during the

month of December to avail myself of studying this unique collection, the various processes of its cleaning and preservation, and its arrangement in the new gallery specially constructed to exhibit this collection consisting of Seals; Statuary; Terra-Cotta Figurines; decorated & plain Pottery; gold, silver, copper, bronze, stone, shell, & paste objects; Beads, Necklaces, Spacers, & Pendants and other miscellaneous objects. So, after informing and obtaining sanction from the Hon. Secretary of the Watson Museum, I studied the collections in general and the novel method of deciphering some of the seals & sealings by Rev. Fr. Heras in particular.

### Lectures.

6. I attended the following series of instructive lectures delivered under the auspices of popular Institutions and Societies :-

- (a) Nineteen lectures from July to September on the German language delivered by Rev. Fr. J. Duhr at the St. X'aviers College under the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association.
- (b) Lecture by Fr. Heras of the St. X'aviers College on the 'Religion of the Mohenjo Daro People' at the B. B. of the Royal Asiatic Society Library Hall on 1-8-36.
- (c) The foundation meeting of the Gujrat Research Society on 30-9-36.
- (d) Two lectures on 19-11-36, and 25-11-36, by Dr. H. Cousins at the Theosophical Society, Blavatsky Lodge, Chawpatty on 'Character Building through Art in Education' and on 'Sermons in Stones and Colours- some significance of Hindu Sculpture and Painting' ( Illustrated with lantern slides ).
- (e) The inaugural meeting of the Bombay Field Club at the University School of Economics and Sociology.
- (f) Attended in December three lectures illustrated by lantern slides and organized by the University of Bombay on

'Beginnings of Mughal Civilization,' 'Mughal Life and Mughal Art in relation to Each Other' and 'Decay of the Mughal Civilization.' The learned lecturer Dr. Hermann Goetz was the extraordinary Curator of the Muhammadan ethnographic collections in Berlin and an ex-Secretary to the Board of Editors of the Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology.

### Tours.

7. The tours to the following places of archaeological importance were made in the interests of the Museum and were of a highly educative value to me.

- (a) In October 1936, I visited the Jogeshwari Caves which date from the eighth century A. D. It is believed that next to the Kailas temple at Ellora, Jogeshwari possesses the largest known cave-temple in India.
- (b) On 29-11-1936, I visited the historical temple of Vajreshwari a place of pilgrimage for the Hindus and a health resort on account of its "Radio-active" hot springs at the temple of Shri Rameshwara. Recent excavations by a Sadhu have disclosed the existence of a temple of great antiquity under a tamarind tree.
- (c) On 22-11-1936, I visited the island of Elephanta or Gharapuri. These caves date back to the eighth century A. D.
- (d) Visited, in the first week of December, the Kennery Caves, numbering some hundred & nine in all, and which lie between Vihar & Thana. They are supposed to be the work of a Buddhist Colony and date from the second century A. D. to the ninth.
- (e) On 13-12-1936, I visited Sopara in company with Mr. Acharya and other members of the Gujrat Research Society. Our purpose was to examine the antiquarian remains and to have first-hand knowledge of the present sites as described in the Bombay Gazetteer Vol. XV

“Thana Places of Interest.” The chakral pond, the Samadhi of the ninth Shankaracharya and the hill excavated by the late Bhagvanlal Indraji were among the historical sites visited by us.

### Research Work.

8 I have undertaken the work of writing a research treatise on the ‘Vaghers of Kathiawar’. In order to collect and collate information by personal investigations and field work, I propose to visit in this year Dwarka, Khambhalia, Salaya, Bedi, Jodiya, Cutch and other historical places.

### Reorganizing the Museum.

9 Some of the items of reorganization during the ensuing year are as under :-

- (i) The Exhibits are being so arranged that they can be conveniently seen without stooping or straining the eyes.
- (ii) The noteworthy collections are being exhibited more conspicuously.
- (iii) Perishable specimens are being exhibited under glass in order to preserve them from dust, pests etc. .
- (iv) Redundant and duplicate specimens are being put into store or reserve. .
- (v) In order to prevent overcrowding, exhibits are being rearranged spaciouly.
- (vi) Definite space is being allocated to definite groups in different sections
- (vii) There will be a quarterly inspection of all exhibits for systematic cleaning and for preserving them from pests etc. .
- (viii) The valuable collection of coins are being preserved in a fire-proof safe and plaster casts of those coins will be exhibited in show-cases for ordinary visitors.
- (ix) Explanatory generic as well as specific labels are being prepared for all sections.



(x) A consolidated and classified catalogue of Museum exhibits is being prepared.

(xi) A small handbook and guide to the collections will be prepared and sold at the lowest possible price to visitors.

(xii) The Museum Library and Reading Room are being rearranged. It is my earnest desire to appeal to Princes & Scholars of Kathiawar to transfer their private collections of books useful to the Museum-either as presents or on loan. Books from the Museum Library are not lent out, but are available to members for the purposes of study and reference.

(xiii) A small Museum Laboratory is being organized for cleaning works of Art and Antiquities.

(xiv) For strengthening the connection between the Museum and educational institutions, periodical lectures will be delivered (with the help of slides, if possible) in the local schools and the teachers and students will be invited to pay frequent visits to the Museum.

(xv) Educated and influential persons interested in museology will be invited to pay visits to the Museum and offer their suggestions.

### **Reconstructing the History of Kathiawar**

10 It has been proposed to inaugurate in Rajkot a Research Society for Cutch and Kathiawar. With the advancement of research work into the original materials, the scheme of reconstructing a comprehensive history of Kathiawar will be undertaken. Still a vast region of basic material is lying utterly unexplored. Every day the material is decaying and dying away. A critical survey of the ancient sites on the Northern and Western coasts of Kathiawar which played the most important part for centuries in the past history of Saurashtra and which are rich in historical materials is calculated to bring about very fruitful results. This problem of rescuing the precious sources of history from imminent ruin, in my opinion, should occupy for the next few

years all the energy and devotion of the princes & people of the province in general and particularly of the scholars labouring in the field.

It is high time that the scholars of Kathiawar-Gujrat should flock together for mutual help and higher studies and assert themselves in the field of research. Kathiawar has a tradition and a culture peculiarly her own and a glorious history of which any nation may be proud of. We should be loyal to the great traditions of Kathiawar for their heroism & hospitality. Let us celebrate the centenaries of the founding of Yadava, Vallabhi and other empires. Let the resplendent majesty of these empires kindle our dormant spirit and inspire us to nobler efforts to the preservation & propagation of Indian culture.

#### General.

11 In closing it is a pleasant duty to record my sense of profound gratitude to the Honorary Secretary who has always been taking very great interest in all my efforts towards reorganizing the Museum. But for his active co-operation, the Museum could not have achieved what it has uptill now.

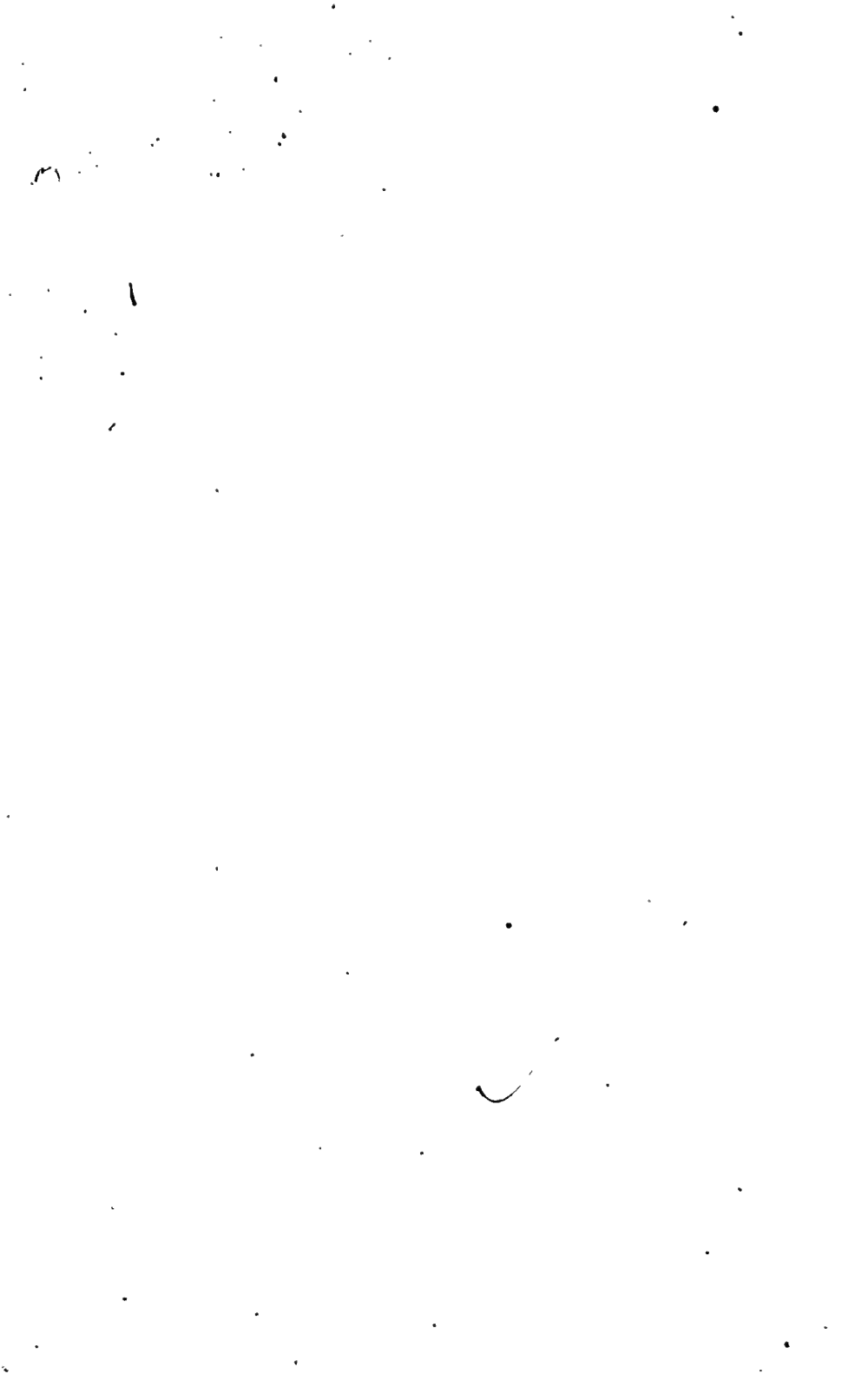
*Sd. A. L. Swadia*

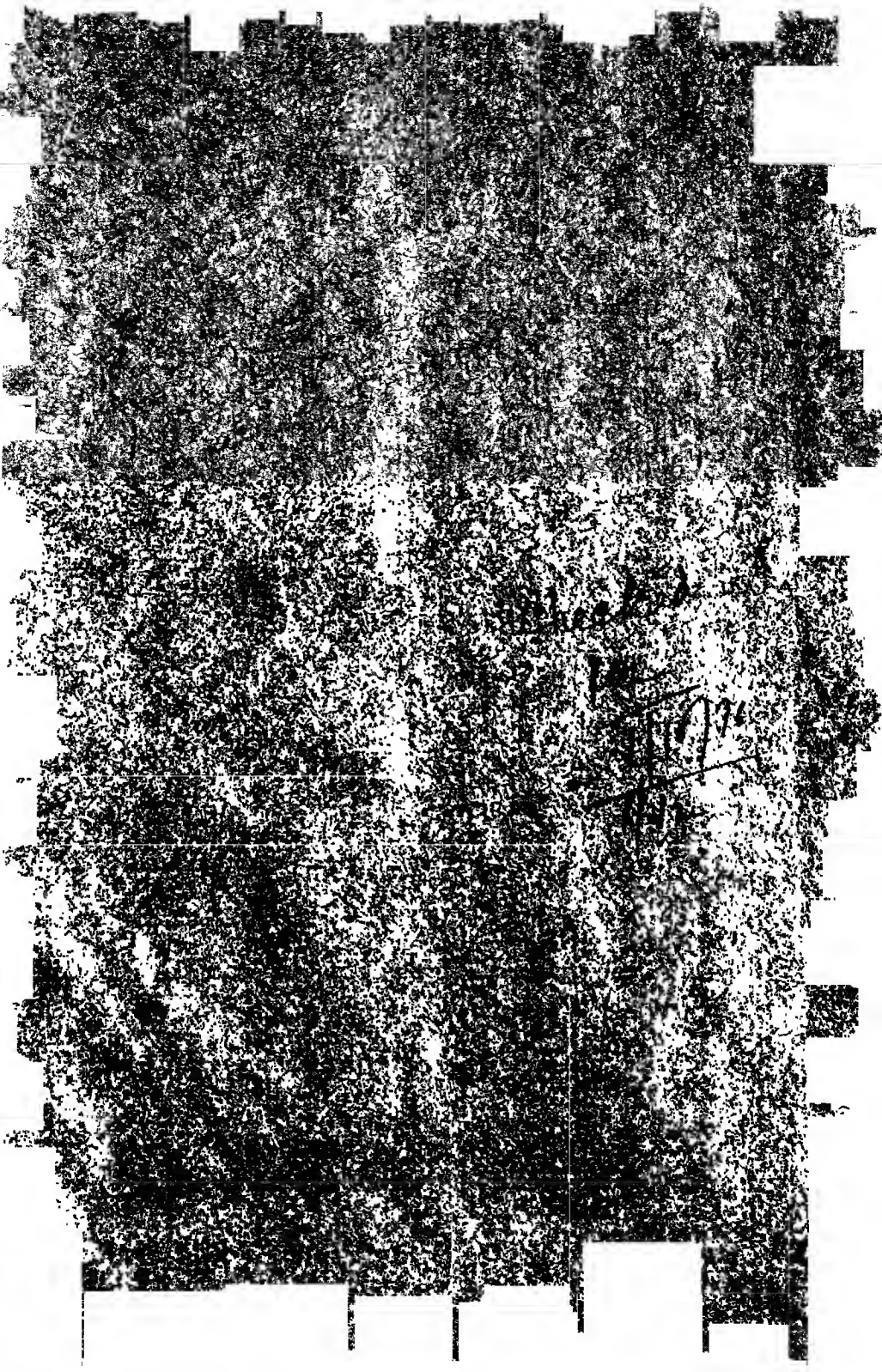
1st April 1937.

Curator,

Rajkot C.S.

Watson Museum.







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W. M. R.

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